

## **REMARKS**

Claims 2 – 5, 8 – 10, 12, 15, and 19 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection in view of the remarks contained herein.

### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1 – 2, 6, 8 – 10, 12, 13, 15 – 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPR (Applicants' admitted Prior Art shown at least in Figure 8 and specification pages 2 and 3, hereinafter AAPR) and further in view of Masaki et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,271,907, herein after Masaki).

Independent claims 2, 3, 10, and 15 have each been amended to delete “an end sealing material” and insert therefor “an injection port sealing material”. Further, each dependent claim that corresponds to the above independent claims has also been amended to delete “an end sealing material” and insert therefor “an injection port sealing material”. This subject matter is described throughout the specification and drawings as filed. No new matter has been added. Particularly, an end sealing material 50 that seals a liquid crystal injection port 40a is described in the specification and shown in the drawings. As such, the end sealing material is an “injection port sealing material”. The disclosure of Masaki, in contrast, teaches the removal of a sealing agent 59(7) that is not applied to the injection port, but rather in a rectangular or frame-shaped pattern that leaves the injection port open.

Moreover, Masaki teaches the removal of the sealing agent before the injection of the liquid crystal. Again, this contrasts with the claimed invention which calls for applying an uncured injection port sealing material to the liquid crystal injection port after injecting the liquid

crystal. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that the proposed combination of the AAPR and Masaki does not yield the claimed invention. Although Masaki allegedly teaches the removal of a sealing agent by cutting or scribing, this alleged removal still occurs after the curing of the sealing agent. There is, therefore, no teaching, suggestion, or motivation that would lead one skilled in the art to look to Masaki to modify the AAPR to arrive at the claimed method of removing at least a part of the injection port sealing material bleeding outside a contour of the liquid crystal panel before curing the injection port sealing material. Without this teaching, suggestion, or motivation, the claimed method is not obvious.

Still further, Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed invention is directed to absorbing the injection port sealing material with an absorbent material. In this manner, a scratching of the liquid crystal panel is avoided. This contrasts with a step of wiping off the injection port sealing material, which raises the risk of scratching the liquid crystal panel.

Moreover, in the claimed invention, the injection port is opened in an end face of the liquid crystal panel. By removing the injection port sealing material and only scratching the end face of the liquid crystal panel, the claimed method decreases a negative impact on the credibility of the display in comparison with scratching a superior or inferior surface of the liquid crystal panel.

Claims 3 – 5, 7, 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPR (Applicants' admitted Prior Art shown at least in Figure 8 and specification pages 2 and 3, hereinafter AAPR) and Masaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,271,907, herein after Masaki) as applied to Claims 1 – 2 above and further in view of Forlini et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,744,126, herein after Forlini).

As stated above, claim 3 has been amended to call for an injection port sealing material. Neither Masaki, the admitted prior art, Forlini, nor any combination thereof yields the claimed invention. That is, as stated above, Masaki teaches the removal of sealing material that is in the form of a rectangular or frame-shaped pattern that leaves the injection port open, while the claimed invention calls for the removal of an injection port sealing material. Since the removal of a rectangular or frame-shaped sealing agent falls well short of the removal of an injection port sealing material, it would not have been obvious to combine the teachings of Masaki, the admitted prior art, and Forlini to arrive at the claimed invention. Further, Masaki teaches in Figures 12A and 12B that an injection port sealing material 9 is applied after the wiping step that removes liquid crystal. This injection port sealing material 9, however, is never removed. Again, this is different from the claimed invention which calls for an injection port sealing material removing step of removing at least a part of said injection port sealing material bleeding outside a contour of said liquid crystal panel. As such, claim 3 and each corresponding dependent claim are not obvious.

## CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will

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expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

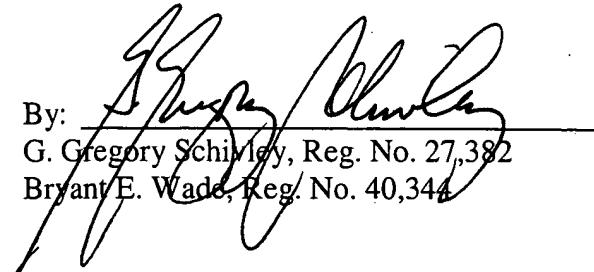
Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

March 1, 2004

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